

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

### SARL NEWS SUNDAY 23 JANUARY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

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Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news items of interest to amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday pre-ceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

DON'T MISS THE PRESIDENT'S NET AND INTECNET TONIGHT

Don't miss the Presidents Net this evening, Sunday 23 January at 19:00. Intecnet featuring Satellites will follow the President's net at 20:00 CAT. It promises to be an exciting evening of amateur radio.

AMSAT North America President Rick Hambley, W2GPS, will be the guest on the Intecnet. Rick, who was project leader for AMSAT Oscar 51, was elected President in October last year. He will discuss AO-51, and Project Eagle, a new satellite project.

Clubs are invited to book now to have their repeater linked. Send an Email before noon today to [armi@sarl.org.za](mailto:armi@sarl.org.za) with the following details: telephone number to be linked, repeater frequency and area covered.

SARL YOUTH DAY

The first SARL Youth Day will take place on Saturday 29 January starting at 09:00 and ending at 13:00. The aim of this event is to give young people an opportunity to speak to other young people in different parts of South Africa. Contacts can be made on the 20, 40 and 2 metre bands. The minimum exchange must be the name and age of the young person, but they are encouraged to chat and find out more about people in other parts of our country.

Radio Clubs and individual amateurs are requested to set-up stations at shopping complexes, school activities, etc and give young people a taste of Amateur Radio.

#### CLOSING DATE FOR 7066 TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS CHANGED

The Awards Manager of the SARL, Tjerk Lammers ZS6P, informed us that the closing date for the Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Excellence Awards has been advanced from 18 March 2005 to 31 January 2005.

The Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Excellence Award and Tinus Lange 7066 Junior Technical Excellence Award is bestowed annually on the persons who submit a technical project in any of the following categories:

- a. Design and/or construction of projects such as a pre-amp, SWR bridge, patching unit, automatic ID-er, practical antenna ideas, mast, portable gear, power supplies etc.

OR

- b. Any software for use in Amateur Radio.

The submission must include the following: - the actual items (if size and mass allows it) or photographs (particularly in the case of antennas/mast etc) and a complete write-up in article form with illustrations/pictures ready for publication in Radio ZS.

The actual artefact and the supporting documentation - i.e. a press ready article for Radio ZS plus any other documents - and be delivered to the NARC not later than the 31 January 2005. All entries will be displayed (where practical, otherwise photographs) at the AGM and the awards will be presented at the annual dinner. The two awards made are the Junior Technical Achievement Award (Under 25 years of age), a framed certificate and a cash award of R350, and the Technical Achievement Award, a framed certificate and a cash award of R350. Hurry up, there is only one week left for submission of your nominations.

#### FURTHER CALL FOR PAPERS FOR AMSATCON2005

This is a further call for papers to be presented at AMSATCON2005, the annual Amateur Radio Satellite Conference hosted by the Southern African Amateur Radio Satellite Association (SA AMSAT). AMSATCON 2005 will be held on Saturday 14 May 2005 at the National Amateur Radio Centre and the Sentech Conference Centre, Sender Technology Park, Radiokop, Roodepoort, Gauteng.

Papers are invited to cover amateur radio satellite operation, VHF propagation, orbital dynamics, weak signal reception, satellite antennas and allied technologies.

A synopsis of a proposed paper must be submitted by 28 February 2005. By March 5 authors will be advised of the acceptance of their papers and will be required to submit the completed paper by 15 April 2005.

Submission must be in Microsoft Word format and may be mailed to saam-sat@intekom.org.za.

#### 2005 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COMPETITION

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has announced details of its 2005 Construction competition. The Trust introduced the construction competition in 2004. For 2005, the project is a low power two-band HF CW transceiver for 20 and 40 metres, fully tuneable with an output of at least 10 watt. The design must use locally available components and in kit form must not cost more than R500 excluding the cabinet.

Entries are invited in two stages. First stage is a paper design, which must include full specs and a detailed write-up. Entries for the first stage must be received by the Trust before 31 March 2005. Three entries will be selected which will each receive R1000 for stage two. Stage two is the building of a proto-type, which must be complete in a cabinet with construction details, circuit diagrams and operating instructions. The completed unit with all its paperwork must be received by 31 May 2005. The winner of stage 2 will receive an Icom IC-V8 hand-held transceiver sponsored by Multisource and the two runners up the 2005 ARRL Handbook. Full details of the competition can be found on the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust website at [www.amateurradio.org.za](http://www.amateurradio.org.za) or can be obtained by sending an Email to [saardt@intekom.co.za](mailto:saardt@intekom.co.za) or fax to 012 991-5651. Written requests for competition details should be addressed to P O Box 90438, Garsfontein 0042.

#### BOOK NOW FOR THE NEXT RTA EVENT

The next Radio Technology in Action lecture will be held on Saturday 12 February 2005. Prof Justin Jonas will speak on the Square Kilometre Array and the invisible universe. The lecture is part of the SARL's Radio Technology in Action Programme, which focuses on new and emerging communication, and electronic technologies.

The lecture will be held at the SARL National Amateur Radio Centre at Sender Technology Park in Roodepoort starting at 10:00 am. Bookings are essential and an entrance fee of R20 is payable at the door. To book call the SARL on 011 675 2393 or email [admin@sarl.org.za](mailto:admin@sarl.org.za). Visit [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) for more details.

#### CLUB NEWS

#### PEARS NATIONAL VHF/UHF CONTEST

The PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest comes to an end this afternoon at 18:00. So there is still time to participate in the contest. This is the first year that the 4 m band will be included in this contest; operation will be on the 6 m, 4 m, 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm bands. Categories include Digital stations, Analogue single operator, Analogue Club or Multi-Operator and Analogue QRP (2 m FM Only). The full rules and the address for log sheets can be found on the PEARS website [www.qsl.net/zs2pe](http://www.qsl.net/zs2pe)

#### EAST RAND FLEA MARKET

The East Rand Radio Club will be hosting a flea market on 05 February 2005 from 09:00 at the clubhouse in Springs.

Tables are R20-00 and bookings can be done at Johanna Harris on tele-phone 011 814 2121. This flea market marks the date of the VHF/UHF Linear Amplifier giveaway. Tickets are still available.

#### PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reports that for the first time in months, the past week has seen masses of activity on the surface of the sun - some totally unexpected and others extraordinary. The sun spot count was 81,3 on Thursday, compared to the 35,8 of the previous week. On 18 January, the count went up to 110 and then dropped rapidly.

For the first time in months there has been a sun spot high and that was on 14 January. On 19 January there was a huge storm on the sun and the sun wind reached a speed of 1002 km/sec (3 600 000 km/hour!). On 20 January, the earth passed through a very strong proton storm which disrupted radio communications world wide - it was of such a magnitude that it is believed to be the biggest of the current cycle. Further stormy conditions may continue until 23 January.

What does this have to do with propagation? Almost nothing! We wanted the high sun spot numbers but the simultaneous stormy conditions cancelled this out. The forecast stays gloomy with weak conditions prevailing.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

23 January - President's net and Intecnet; 29 January SARL Youth Day; 31 January - Closing date for the Tinus Lange 7066 Awards; 05 February East Rand RC Flea market; 10 February Submit synopsis of proposed papers for AMSATCON2005; 12 February - RTA lecture at the NARC at 10:00; 12 and 13 February SARL HF Field Day; 31 March - Submit final papers for AMSATCON2005; closing date for part 1 of the 2005 Construction Competition; 08 April - SARL Awards Dinner; 09 April - SARL AGM; 14 May - AMSATCON2005.

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 700, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX